

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3799

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 5579

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT, FR, US

SUBJECT: WEU DEFENSE COMMITTEE VISIT TO US--PRESS COVERAGE
AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ROME 5282

/SUMMARY/. THE END OF THE VISIT OF THE WEU DEFENSE COMMITTEE
TO THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED LITTLE COVERAGE IN THE ITALIAN
PRESS. SHORT, IDENTICAL, FACTUAL ACCOUNTS WERE CARRIED IN
THE PCI'S /L'UNITA/ AND PCI-ORIENTED /PAESE SERA/ WHILE
LEFTIST-ORIENTED /MESSAGGERO/ PROVIDED A MORE DETAILED SUMMARY
OF THE ENTIRE TRIP. IN A PERHAPS RELATED DEVELOPMENT, INDRO
MONTANELLI, IN A PAGE ONE EDITORIAL IN CENTRIST /LA NAZIONE/,
WELCOMED A MORE LIBERAL US VISA POLICY WHILE
WARNING "NAIVE" AMERICANS AGAINST BEING TAKEN IN BY THE PEOPLE
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THAT THE PCI LEADERSHIP WILL SELECT TO REPRESENT THE PARTY IN
THE US. MONTANELLI'S EDITORIAL WAS THE SUBJECT OF A SOMEWHAT
SARCASTIC RESPONSE IN /L'UNITA/ IN WHICH THE LATTER RENEWED
THE CALL FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO ITS REQUEST TO OPEN
AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. /END SUMMARY/.

1. PCI PARTY DAILY /L'UNITA/ AND PCI-ORIENTED /PAESE SERA/

CARRIED, SHORT IDENTICAL, FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE WEU DEFENSE COMMITTEE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH HIGHLIGHTED PCI SENATOR UGO PECCHIOI'S MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN PHILIP BURTON. LEFTIST ORIENTED /MESSAGGERO/ CARRIED A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT. CORRESPONDENT LUCIO MANISCO NOTED THAT THE TWO PCI SENATORS IN THE ITALIAN DELEGATION WERE RECEIVED WITH THE SAME CORDIALITY ACCORDED THEIR ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES AND THAT THEY WERE ADMITTED TO ALL BRIEFINGS ORGANIZED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE PENTAGON. MANISCO STATED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE VISIT WAS "TO PROMOTE THE SALE OF AMERICAN ARMS TO EUROPE" AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS TREATED TO A DEMONSTRATION OF THE CAPABILITIES OF THE F-16 FIGHTER AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE IN CALIFORNIA. ACCORDING TO MANISCO'S ACCOUNT, PECCHIOI AND BOLDRINI NOTED A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN THE PENTAGON AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE QUESTION OF DISARMAMENT TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO PECCHIOI'S FOUR-HOUR MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN BURTON AND STATED THAT BURTON NOTED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PCI LEADERSHIP FROM MOSCOW AND THE FACT THAT BERLINGUER "IS NOT CUNHAL."

2. IN A PERHAPS RELATED DEVELOPMENT, INDRO MONTANELLI COMMENTED ON POSSIBLE CHANGES IN US VISA POLICY TOWARD COMMUNISTS IN A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN CENTRIST /IL GIORNALE/. MONTANELLI STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTING ITS VISA POLICY TO ALLOW MORE VISAS TO COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS, BUT HE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE LAW ITSELF WILL NOT BE REPEALED. MONTANELLI APPLAUDED THIS AS A WISE AND PERHAPS UNCLASSIFIED

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SOMEWHAT BELATED DECISION. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT MEMBERS OF THE PCI WILL GO TO THE US "LESS TO SEE AND TO KNOW THAN TO MAKE THEMSELVES SEEN AND KNOWN." HE ASKED THAT AMERICANS NOT ALLOW THE PCI TO USE SUCH VISITS AS A TOOL AGAINST THE DC. MONTANELLI EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT "NAIVE" AMERICANS WILL BE TAKEN IN BY THE "SUPERIOR COSMETIC ABILITY" OF THE PCI WHOSE HAND-PICKED REPRESENTATIVES ARE LIKELY TO PROVIDE A SHARP CONTRAST TO THE "DULL OBTUSENESS" OF THE AVERAGE DC VISITOR.

3. MONTANELLI'S EDITORIAL PROVOKED A SHARP REPLY FROM /L'UNITA/ WHICH RIDICULED MONTANELLI'S CHARACTERIZATION OF AMERICANS AS "NAIVE" AND WENT ON TO CONDEMN PRESENT US VISA POLICY AS "UNACCEPTABLE FROM A DEMOCRATIC POINT OF VIEW" AND IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE HELSINKI PACT. THE /L'UNITA/ COMMENT ENDED WITH A CALL FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO THE PAPER'S REPEATED REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. GARDNER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Subject: WEU DEFENSE COMMITTEE VISIT TO US--PRESS COVERAGE AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, IT, FR, US
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